



Foreword

Long before I became a commentator statistical information held a fascination for me. I could pick up a book with the intention of just flipping through the pages and end up losing track of time poring through games, goals and players.

It's more than just the data, it's the memories that are stirred up. Goals are replayed in the mind, and the emotion of the occasion rekindled. As you read The Un-official Beginners Guide to The History of The Australian National Soccer League you will relive many of the great moments in Australian soccer. Moments that you had long forgotten. It will invoke discussion, arguments and laughter and that's exactly what it is designed to do.

Fans of soccer in Australia are starved of information about the local scene due to mainstream media's lack of foresight. No wonder then that its taken the endeavour of a group of FANS to produce such a bible for the rest of us to enjoy. Because it's written by fans, for fans, there's an understanding of what we need in a publication like this to quench our thirst for football - from the league ladders to the 'Did You Know?'s there is a priceless gem for everyone.

The arduous task of keeping statistics is one that I am very familiar with. And, as such, I can appreciate the monumental effort required to produce such a book. Studs Up are to be congratulated and more importantly thanked profusely for this contribution to Australian soccer.

Enjoy it. Enjoy the surprises, the humour and the memories of the game we all love.

PAUL WILLIAMS
May 1999.

And a paragraph (or two) from the editor....

The statistics used in this guide have been obtained from a wide variety of sources. In many cases the information is general knowledge, to be found in any newspaper in any library, but there are some sources that should be acknowledged.

In particular we would like to acknowledge all the journalists who contributed to the numerous official and commercial publications that have surfaced over the past three decades. All works have been invaluable when it comes to double and triple checking the most obvious facts. In addition, the measures of assistance provided by Andrew Howe, Greg Stock and Damian Smith should not be underestimated.

In any 'History of...' there is certain to be the odd typo or two. Despite checking and re-checking we can never be certain. There will always be arguments anyway, but in producing this guide we feel proud to say at least we started the argument.

Enjoy!

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1977

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Eastern Suburbs Hakoah	26	13	11	2	52	28	37
Marconi	26	15	7	4	42	21	37
Fitzroy Utd Alexander	26	12	8	6	41	34	32
Adelaide City Juventus	26	12	7	7	50	31	31
Western Suburbs	26	11	7	8	38	29	29
St George Budapest	26	7	14	5	39	35	28
West Adelaide Hellas	26	8	10	8	38	32	26
Footscray JUST	26	9	6	11	36	39	24
Brisbane Lions	26	9	5	12	27	41	23
Brisbane City	26	8	6	12	30	35	22
South Melbourne Hellas	26	7	8	11	27	35	22
Sydney Olympic	26	7	7	12	25	38	21
Canberra Arrows	26	5	7	14	22	39	17
Mooroolbark (relegated)	26	5	5	16	31	61	15

NO FINAL SERIES PLAYED

IN THE BEGINNING.....

.....there were state leagues. And the fact that a national league kicked off at all is a credit to the administrators of the time, yet the inaugural season was far removed from what the game's leaders had originally envisaged.

The agreement reached in 1975 to exclude ethnic or nationalistic names disappeared pretty quickly, as did the concept of transparent promotion and relegation rules.

Nevertheless, all that was forgotten when the league got underway on April 2, 1977, with Sydney clubs Eastern Suburbs Hakoah, Marconi and St George all expecting to finish in the top three.

That optimism was in short supply elsewhere, with Bruce Waddell, editor of the day at the legendary Queensland publication 'Go Soccer', suggesting "This inaugural season should be one of consolidation for the Brisbane teams, and aiming at just avoiding finishing in last place in the League, should not be regarded as too pessimistic a view."

Gooooooooooooooooo!!!!

The first goal in the National Soccer League was scored by West Adelaide's John Kosmina. Eight years later he became the first player to score 100 NSL goals, and eventually went on to hold the all-time national league scoring record.

Six players scored hat-tricks during the inaugural league season, but John (Dixie) Deans was the only player to score four goals in the same game. (Yep, against Mooroolbark!)

Leading Goalscorers

John DEANS	
'Adelaide City'	16
Terry SMITH	
'Eastern Suburbs'	14
Murray BARNES	
'Eastern Suburbs'	12
John KOSMINA	
'West Adelaide'	12
Gary COLE	
'Heidelberg'	11
Geoff MORRIS	
'Brisbane Lions'	10
Branko BULJEVIC	
'Fitzroy United'	9
John NYSKOHUS	
'Adelaide City'	9
Peter SHARNE	
'Marconi'	9
Neville MORGAN	
'St George'	8
Graham NORRIS	
'Western Suburbs'	8
Phil O'CONNOR	
'St George'	8
Mendo RISTOVSKI	
'Footscray JUST'	8

Did You Know?

Newcastle United and Arsenal star Malcolm MacDonald "guested" for South Melbourne for three games. The club insured him for \$500,000. South Melbourne asked the three clubs that would face the SuperMac, each chip in to help pay the insurance premium of \$2000.

It's a Record!

Adelaide City defeated Mooroolbark 10-3. They remain the only team to reach double-figures in a league match.

Did You Know?

Mooroolbark may have finished on the bottom, but they went out in style, winning their final match 4-1 in Canberra, their best result of the season!

1978

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
West Adelaide Hellas	26	16	4	6	42	27	36
Eastern Suburbs - Hakoah	26	15	5	6	49	27	35
South Melbourne Hellas	26	12	8	6	45	30	32
Marconi	26	12	6	8	46	31	30
Fitzroy Utd Alexander	26	9	8	9	39	39	26
Brisbane Lions	26	8	10	8	37	39	26
St George Budapest	26	11	3	12	41	40	25
Sydney Olympic	26	9	7	10	35	43	25
Western Suburbs (relegated)	26	9	6	11	41	45	24
Adelaide City Juventus	26	9	6	11	38	44	24
*Newcastle KB United	26	6	10	10	33	40	22
Footscray JUST	26	7	8	11	29	37	22
Canberra City	26	5	10	11	28	41	20
Brisbane City	26	7	3	16	29	49	17

Top Four Finals Series

Minor Semi Final
South Melbourne 2 Duncan Cummings 41, Alun Evans 55
Marconi 3 Barry Jones 1, Peter Sharne 8
 Peter Ollerton 44

Major Semi Final
West Adelaide 2 Barry Reynolds 12
 George Koulianos 14
Hakoah 3 Ian Souness 20, Murray Barnes 55
 Ernie Campbell 117

(after extra time)

Preliminary Final (at Marconi)
Marconi 2 Berti Mariani 61, Peter Sharne 81
West Adelaide 0

Grand Final
Hakoah 4 Terry Smith 25, Joe Watson 38
 Mark Trenter 41, Ernie Campbell 44
Marconi 2 Peter Ollerton 23, Roberto Vieri 60
 Attendance:- Approx 10,000

Gooooooooooooooooooooo!!!!!!

The Marconi players caused a sensation in the Preliminary Final when, with the score at 0-0, they took nearly two minutes to decide who would take a 60th minute penalty, awarded after Peter Sharne was fouled. Future Marconi coach Roberto Vieri was eventually persuaded to step up, and although his shot was saved by Martin Crook, another future Marconi coach, Berti Mariani was on hand to convert the rebound.

What's in a Name?

During the close season Eastern Suburbs Hakoah changed their name to Sydney City and Fitzroy United Alexander changed their name to Heidelberg United.

Leading Goalscorers	
Ken BODEN	
'Newcastle'	14
Clive EATON	
'Western Suburbs'	13
Phil O'CONNOR	
'St George'	12
Jim CAMPBELL	
'Fitzroy United'	12
Gary COLE	
'Fitzroy United'	11
Roberto VIERI	
'Marconi'	11
Alan HUGHES	
'Brisbane Lions'	10
Duncan CUMMINGS	
'South Melbourne'	10
Allan FISHER	
'Western Suburbs'	10

'Spectator Watch

Newcastle's inaugural season was highlighted by an aggregate home attendance of 109,675 - the highest in the league. The team they replaced, Mooroolbark, had an aggregate home attendance of 13,450.

It's a Record!

West Adelaide's excellent season included a run of eight consecutive wins, which remains a club record.

1979

	P	W	D	L	#	F	A	Pts
Marconi	26	15	6	5	4	58	32	40
Heidelberg United	26	14	7	5	1	44	30	36
Sydney City	26	15	3	8	1	47	29	34
Brisbane City	26	14	5	7	1	38	30	34
Adelaide City	26	13	6	7	1	43	27	33
Newcastle KB United	26	11	9	6	1	43	30	32
West Adelaide	26	10	4	12	1	28	31	25
*Leichhardt	26	11	3	12	0	29	37	25
Brisbane Lions	26	8	6	12	0	28	40	22
Footscray JUST	26	8	3	15	1	29	43	20
St George Budapest	26	7	6	13	0	27	43	20
Canberra City	26	6	8	12	0	25	41	20
Sydney Olympic (relegated)	26	7	5	14	0	23	30	19
South Melbourne Hellas	26	6	3	17	1	26	45	16

Bonus point awarded for scoring four or more goals in a match.

Leading Goalscorers	
Mark JANKOVICS	
'Marconi'	18
Eddie KRNEVIC	
'Marconi'	13
Ken BODEN	
'Newcastle'	12
Kevin LOW	
'Brisbane City'	11
Tony BRENNAN	
'Brisbane Lions'	10
Gary COLE	
'Heidelberg'	10
Jamie PATON	
'Heidelberg'	10
Peter SHARNE	
'Marconi'	10
Terry SMITH	
'Sydney City'	10

Top Four Finals Series

(played under a round - robin format)...Top two qualify for the Grand Final.

1st Round			
Marconi 2	Gary Byrne 2 pen Tony Henderson 58	Brisbane City 2	Bobby Campbell 48, 63
Heidelberg 1	Gary Cole 25	Sydney City 0	
2nd Round			
Brisbane City 2	Bobby Campbell 38 Kevin Low 72	Heidelberg 1	Gary Cole 70
Marconi 1	Mark Jankovics 58	Sydney City 3	John Stevenson 14 Mark Trenter 18 o.g. 68 (Yzendoorn)

3rd Round			
Heidelberg 6	Branko Buljevic 35 Gary Cole 55, 57, 67 Andy Bozikas 61, 71	Marconi 0	
Brisbane City 2	Barry Kelso 65 Bobby Campbell 70	Sydney City 1	Murray Barnes 75

Did You Know?

It was a major surprise when APIA, (Associazione Polisportiva Italo-Australia) decided not to join the NSL back in 1977. Having won a string of state titles in the 60's and 70's, they were left lamenting their lack of vision until the end of the 1978 season, when they merged with Western Suburbs.

Final Table

	Pts	G.D.
Sydney City	4	4-3
Brisbane City	4	6-7
Heidelberg	2	8-7
Marconi	2	3-4

1st leg (in Sydney)

Sydney City 1	Marcos Silva 76	Brisbane City 1	Barry Kelso 78
Brisbane City 0		Sydney City 1	Mark Trenter 84

Grand Final

2nd leg (in Brisbane)
 Sydney City won 2-1 on aggregate.

1980

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sydney City	26	16	5	5	51	26	37
Heidelberg United	26	15	6	5	55	33	36
South Melbourne Hellas	26	15	5	6	42	21	35
Marconi Fairfield	26	14	6	6	53	32	34
Adelaide City	26	13	4	9	40	27	30
Newcastle KB United	26	12	6	8	32	31	30
Brisbane Lions	26	7	11	8	28	32	25
Leichhardt	26	8	7	11	27	35	23
Footscray	26	7	9	10	32	41	23
Canberra City	26	7	7	12	34	33	21
*Blacktown City	26	9	3	14	34	55	21
Brisbane City	26	4	10	12	29	36	18
West Adelaide	26	7	3	16	24	46	17
St George Budapest (relegated)	26	5	4	17	32	65	14

Top Four Finals Series

Minor Semi Final - Oct 12 (in Melbourne)	
South Melbourne 4	Alun Evans 50, 81 Branko Buljevic 79 Arthur Xanthopoulos 74
Marconi 3	Peter Sharne 10 Gary Byrne 20 Eddie Krncevic 40

Major Semi Final - Oct 12 (in Sydney)

Sydney City 2	Mark Trenter 35 Ken Boden 39
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Heidelberg 0

Preliminary Final - Oct 18 (in Melbourne)

Heidelberg 4	Jamie Paton 52, 84 Gary Cole 67 Andy Bozikas 76
South Melbourne 1	Branko Buljevic 7

Grand Final - Oct 26 (in Canberra)

Heidelberg 4	Gary Cole 33, 43, 77 Jamie Paton 90
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Sydney City 0

Did You Know?

Blacktown won their first ever NSL fixture, but got fixed up good and proper in round two - going down 0-9 to Marconi. They gained their revenge later in the season though, beating Marconi 5-1.

Did You Know?

1980 was the only season not to feature Sydney Olympic, but their relegation to the NSW State League resulted in an increase in their average attendance!

Leading Goalscorers

Gary COLE	21
'Heidelberg'	
Mark JANKOVICS	16
'Marconi'	
Jamie PATON	15
'Heidelberg'	
Ken BODEN	13
'Sydney City'	
Eddie KRNCVIC	13
'Marconi'	
John NYSKOHUS	12
'Adelaide City'	
Dennis DUARTE	11
'St George'	
Murray BARNES	10
'Sydney City'	
Branko BULJEVIC	10
'South Melbourne'	
Phil O'CONNOR	10
'APIA Leichhardt'	
Colin BARNES	9
'Adelaide City'	
Barry KELSO	9
'Brisbane City'	

Gooooaaal!!!!!!

In a season where he truly re-wrote the record books, notching three hat-tricks in the space of five matches and a GF hat-trick to boot, Gary Cole became the first NSL player to reach fifty career goals.

On the

Merry-Go-Round....

Brisbane City became the first NSL club to employ four coaches in the one season. The 'lucky' four were Nereo Saffich, Steve Perry, Julius Vincze and George Potter.

1981

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sydney City	30	19	5	6	57	28	43
South Melbourne	30	13	13	4	41	27	39
Brisbane City	30	12	11	7	37	25	35
Leichhardt	30	12	11	7	39	33	35
Canberra City	30	13	7	10	41	32	33
Brisbane Lions	30	11	11	8	41	32	33
Adelaide City	30	13	6	11	44	42	32
Heidelberg	30	12	7	11	49	39	31
*Sydney Olympic	30	11	9	10	46	44	31
Newcastle	30	11	8	11	41	41	30
*Wollongong	30	8	12	10	35	39	28
Murray BARNES	30	9	7	14	38	42	25
Footscray	30	9	7	14	32	48	25
Marconi	30	9	7	14	23	45	25
Blacktown City (relegated)	30	6	9	15	32	47	21
West Adelaide	30	5	4	21	25	57	14

NO FINAL SERIES PLAYED

Did You Know?

Wollongong's president in their first NSL season was the Speaker in the NSW Parliament, Laurie Kelly.

What's in a Name?

The NSL has always had an image problem, hence the numerous attempts down the years to compel clubs to change their names and logos. The early eighties provided many such attempt, with varying results. Just part of the list includes:

- Sydney City Slickers
- South Melbourne Gunners
- Preston Rams
- Adelaide City Giants
- Sydney Olympians
- Brisbane City Gladiators
- Canberra Arrows
- Footscray Eagles
- Leichhardt Strikers
- Marconi Leopards
- Newcastle KB Raiders
- West Adelaide Hawks

Did You Know?

The Philips Soccer League management committee asked the clubs to ban the sale of 'Soccer Action' newspaper after the paper continued to refer to the clubs as 'Hellas', 'Croatia', 'Juve', and so on.

Leading Goalscorers

Gary COLE	16
'Heidelberg'	
Alun EVANS	14
'South Melbourne'	
Ken BODEN	12
'Sydney City'	
Marshall SOPER	12
'APIA Leichhardt'	
Ian SOUNESS	12
'Sydney City'	
Paul WILKINSON	12
'Brisbane City'	
Murray BARNES	11
'Sydney City'	
John KOSMINA	11
'Sydney City'	
Mark KOUSSAS	11
'Sydney Olympic'	
Billy WILLIAMSON	10
'Brisbane Lions'	
David MITCHELL	9
'Adelaide City'	
Peter OLLERTON	9
'Preston'	
Jamie PATON	9
'Heidelberg'	
Walter VALERI	9
'Canberra'	

Ups and Downs

West Adelaide finished in the relegation zone for the second successive season yet retained their place for the 1982 season after the league considered the alternatives from South Australia 'unsuitable'. The squabble over 'ethnic names' also prevented the inclusion of clubs such as Sydney Croatia and Melbourne Croatia until the league split in 1984.

1982

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sydney City	30	20	5	5	68	28	45
*St George Budapest	30	14	8	8	47	40	36
Wollongong	30	16	3	11	43	46	35
Heidelberg	30	13	8	9	42	37	34
Preston	30	12	10	8	45	41	34
South Melbourne Hellas	30	11	9	10	46	37	31
APIA Leichhardt	30	12	7	11	49	54	31
Sydney Olympic	30	12	6	12	52	42	30
West Adelaide	30	10	8	12	44	40	28
Marconi	30	12	4	14	44	43	28
Brisbane Lions	30	10	8	12	39	42	28
Newcastle	30	10	7	13	43	52	27
Adelaide City	30	6	12	12	36	44	24
Footscray JUST	30	5	14	11	34	46	24
Canberra City	30	7	10	13	37	54	24
Brisbane City	30	5	11	14	32	55	21

Top Four Finals Series

Minor Semi Final (in Melbourne)

Heidelberg 1 Jamie Paton 40 (pen)
Wollongong 3 Peter Tredinnick 80
Phil O'Connor 75, Ray Cotton 57 (pen)

Major Semi Final (in Sydney)

Sydney City 3 David Mitchell 38, Ken Boden 75
Joe Watson 87

St George 0

Preliminary Final (at Wollongong)

Wollongong 0
St George 2 Peter Wilkinson 51, Dez Marton 76

Grand Final (at Penrith)

St George 3 Dez Marton 23, 50 (pen), 83
Sydney City 1 John Kosmina 90 (pen)
St George: Terry Greedy, David Skeen, David Ratcliffe,
Mike O'Shea, Robert O'Shea, John O'Shea, Peter Stone,
Paul Wilkinson, Robbie Slater, Ted MacDougal, Dez Marton
Sydney City: Todd Clarke, Kevin Mullen, Alex Robertson,
Jim Cant, Ian Bruce, John Spanos, Jim Patikas, Murray Barnes,
Joe Watson, John Kosmina, David Mitchell

Feeling Right at Home Again.

The early years of the NSL produced dozen of guest appearances from overseas stars, including names such as Bobby Charlton and Kevin Keegan. But the return of our own heroes were just as memorable, such as when Craig Johnston returned to Newcastle and hit a hat-trick in a 3-1 home win over Brisbane Lions. The sight of over one thousand kids on the ground after the final whistle was a sign of what lay ahead when Frank Farina returned to Brisbane, and Robbie Slater returned to Sydney, and....

Leading Goalscorers

John KOSMINA	23
'Sydney City'	
Charlie EGAN	20
'South Melbourne'	
Mark KOUSSAS	16
'Sydney Olympic'	
Dez MARTON	16
'St George'	
Phil O'CONNOR	6
'Wollongong'	
Graham HONEYMAN	14
'West Adelaide'	
Marshall SOPER	14
'APIA Leichhardt'	
Jim CAMPBELL	12
'Heidelberg'	
Gary COLE	12
'Heidelberg'	
Sebastian GIAMPAOLO	12
'APIA Leichhardt'	
Mark JANKOVICS	12
'Marconi'	
Doug BROWN	11
'Preston'	
Roy COTTON	10
'Wollongong'	
John NYSKOHUS	10
'Adelaide City'	
Jim REDFERN	10
'Sydney Olympic'	

We Simply Must

Quote You on That

'We have too much ad-hocery rather than long-term forward planning; too much autocratic rule rather than sound internal management structures and anyone remotely connected with soccer knows who I am pointing the finger at'
Charles Perkins, 1982.

1983

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
St George Budapest	30	15	10	5	47	27	55
Sydney City	30	15	9	6	48	30	54
Preston	30	15	7	8	47	32	52
South Melbourne Hellas	30	15	7	8	44	36	52
Newcastle	30	14	7	9	45	26	49
Heidelberg	30	11	10	9	39	38	43
Sydney Olympic	30	12	5	13	38	36	41
APIA Leichhardt	30	11	6	13	43	36	39
Marconi	30	9	11	10	43	41	38
Canberra	30	11	5	14	47	53	38
Adelaide City	30	10	6	14	37	38	36
Footscray JUST	30	9	9	12	25	42	36
West Adelaide	30	7	12	11	25	37	33
Brisbane City	30	8	9	13	33	50	33
Wollongong	30	4	15	11	41	55	27
Brisbane Lions	30	6	8	16	36	61	26

NO FINAL SERIES PLAYED

THE CONFERENCE SYSTEM.

The introduction of the 'two conference' system for the 1984 season provided the most compelling evidence yet that the administrators had drifted from the original ideas of the 1970s. Suddenly the league contained 24 teams, split into what was effectively the 'NSW championship' and the 'Rest of Oz championship'. In an effort to gloss over this glaring anomaly, the league decided to run a series of 'inter-conference' matches which only served to confuse most fans. This idea was dropped after one season.

The relegation rules were, predictably, full of 'ifs and buts', resulting in only one change to the line-up (Inter-Monaro for Melita Eagles) after provincial clubs were awarded safe status for the first two years.

Sunshine would have been relegated had a Victorian State League club been willing to accept a place in the NSL. By the end of the 1985 season the clubs conceded the entire system had become unviable and a decision was made to revert to a one division 14 team competition for the 1987 season. The participants would be selected using a variety of criteria, with off-field performance being a key factor.

When the '87 season kicked off, the entire concept of a national league was in danger. The fourteen clubs included seven from Melbourne, six from Sydney, and Adelaide City (Juventus), and while the league hoped for consolidation in 1987, with a return to a 'true' national league with a new sponsor, even the best laid plans can go astray sometimes.

Leading Goalscorers

Doug BROWN	16
'South Melbourne'	
John KOSMINA	15
'Sydney City'	
Marshall SOPER	13
'Sydney Olympic'	
John BRADLEY	12
'APIA Leichhardt'	
Roy COTTON	12
'Wollongong'	
Phil O'CONNOR	12
'Wollongong'	
Charlie EGAN	11
'South Melbourne'	
Derek LEA	11
'Heidelberg'	
Jamie PATON	11
'Footscray JUST'	
Rod BROWN	10
'Marconi'	
David LOWE	10
'Newcastle'	
Claude LUCCHESI	10
'Preston'	
Dez MARTON	10
'St George'	
Joe MULLEN	10
'Adelaide City'	
Danny WRIGHT	10
'Brisbane Lions'	

Venue

Merry-Go-Round.

Sydney City used five 'home' grounds during the season: Sydney Athletic Field, Marconi Stadium, Oaks Oval (Lismore), Graeme Park (Gosford) and St George Stadium.

Money Back Guarantee!

In an effort to draw more spectators to home games, St George introduced a 'money-back' scheme if the match didn't provide adequate entertainment!

1984 Australian Conference.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Leading Goalscorers
Sydney City	28	17	8	3	67	21	42	John KOSMINA
Sydney Olympic	28	16	8	4	61	27	40	'Sydney City' 19
Marconi	28	12	8	8	58	39	32	Rod BROWN
APIA Leichhardt	28	12	8	8	43	35	32	'Marconi Fairfield' 15
Blacktown	28	12	6	10	43	48	30	Peter KATHOLOS
*Sydney Croatia	28	8	11	9	32	38	27	'Sydney Olympic' 13
*Penrith	28	8	10	10	29	41	26	David LOWE
Newcastle Rosebud	28	11	4	13	35	52	26	'Marconi Fairfield' 13
Canberra	28	12	1	15	47	39	25	Graham ARNOLD
St George	28	8	9	11	36	41	25	'Sydney Croatia' 11
*Melita Eagles (relegated)	28	8	8	12	23	38	24	John BRADLEY
Wollongong	28	5	5	18	22	59	15	'APIA Leichhardt' 11
								Tom MCCULLOCH
								'Marconi' 11

Top Five Series

Elimination Final	Qualifying Final
APIA 3 Terry Butler 78 Tony Genovese 101 Tony Morsello 109	Sydney Olympic 2 Gary Phillips 76 Mark Koussas 102
Blacktown 1 Michael McLaughlin 90	Marconi 1 David Lowe 55
1st Semi Final	2nd Semi Final
APIA 3 Arno Bertogna 74 Vince Colagiuri 96 Vic Bozanic 105 (pen)	Sydney City 1 Gerry Gomez 21 Sydney Olympic 1 Peter Katholos 16 Sydney City won 4-2 on pens
Marconi 3 Peter Shame 20 Rod Brown 117 Mark Jankovics 118	
APIA won 4-3 on pens	
Preliminary Final	Grand Final
Sydney Olympic 3 Peter Raskopoulos 42 Chris Kalantzis 70 Jim Patikas 90	Sydney Olympic 2 Marshall Soper 105 Mike Coady 114 Steve O'Connor 99
APIA 0 Sydney City 1	

1984 NSL Grand Final - 1st leg (at Olympic Park)

South Melbourne 2	Charlie Egan 43, 64
Sydney Olympic 1	Mark Koussas 5
Attendance:	Approx 10,000
Referee:	Doug Rennie
South Melbourne:	Peter Laumets, Bobby Russell, Steve Blair, Angelo Postecoglou, Alan Davidson, Oscar Crino, Carl Halford, Ken Murphy, John Yzendoorn, Doug Brown, Charlie Egan. Coach: Len McKendry
Sydney Olympic:	Gary Meier, Tony Dakos, Graham Jennings, Peter Raskopoulos, Peter Katholos, Gary Phillips, Martin Rogers, Mike Coady, Jim Patikas (Chris Kalantzis), Mark Koussas, (Nick Theodorakopoulos), Marshall Soper. Coach: Manfred Schaefer

1984 National Conference.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Leading Goalscorers
South Melbourne Hellas	28	18	4	6	48	20	40	Doug BROWN
Heidelberg	28	14	7	7	37	27	35	'South Melbourne' 20
*Melbourne Croatia	28	13	7	8	38	31	33	Steve WINN
Brisbane Lions	28	12	6	10	38	36	30	'Heidelberg' 11
*Brunswick Juventus	28	13	4	11	36	42	30	Paul LEWIS
Preston	28	11	8	11	42	33	28	'Green Gully' 10
Adelaide City	28	10	5	13	33	34	25	Joe CAIRNEY
Footscray JUST	28	10	5	13	29	33	25	'Brisbane Lions' 9
*Green Gully	28	9	6	13	34	36	24	Charlie EGAN
West Adelaide	28	8	5	15	40	52	21	'South Melbourne' 9
Brisbane City	28	8	5	15	21	39	21	Scott PATTERSON
*Sunshine George Cross	28	5	6	17	24	57	16	'Footscray JUST' 9
								Joe SWEENEY
								'Brunswick' 9

Top Five Series

Elimination Final	Qualifying Final
Brisbane Lions 4 Jim McDonald 25 John Stewart 30 Russell Stewart 44 Joe Cariney 78 Joe Sweeney 16, 25	Heidelberg 1 Mike Petersen 1 Melb Croatia 2 Peter Lewis 11 David Brogan 33 pen
Brunswick 2	
1st Semi Final	2nd Semi Final
Heidelberg 0 John Yzendoorn 84 Brisbane Lions 0 Doug Brown 95, 96 Heidelberg won 3-2 on pens	South Melbourne 3 Steve Gojevic 44 Melbourne Croatia 2 Tommy Cumming 115
Preliminary Final	Grand Final
Heidelberg 3 Stuart Stevenson 9 38, 44	South Melbourne 4 Alan Davidson 16 Oscar Crino 60, 84 John Yzendoorn 80
Melbourne Croatia 1 David Brogan 74 (pen)	Heidelberg 2 Mike Petersen 7 Stuart Stevenson 39

1984 NSL Grand Final - 2nd leg (at St George)

Sydney Olympic 1	Nick Theodorakopoulos 34
South Melbourne 2	Oscar Crino 10, John Yzendoorn 18
Attendance:	11,221
Referee:	Chris Bambridge
South Melbourne:	Peter Laumets, Bobby Russell, Steve Blair, John Yzendoorn, Angelo Postecoglou, Alan Davidson, Oscar Crino (John Kanesisoulis), Carl Halford, Ken Murphy, Charlie Egan, Doug Brown. Coach: Len McKendry
Sydney Olympic:	Gary Meier, Tony Dakos, Martin Rogers (Mark Koussas), Mike Coady, Gary Phillips, Peter Raskopoulos, Peter Katholos, Graham Jennings, Marshall Soper, Nick Theodorakopoulos, Chris Kalantzis. Coach: Manfred Schaefer

1985 Southern Conference

	Plyd	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Leading Goalscorers
South Melbourne Hellas	22	14	5	3	39	21	33	Charlie EGAN
Brunswick United	22	11	7	4	33	19	29	'South Melbourne' 18
Heidelberg	22	10	7	5	29	17	27	Ossie LATIF
Melbourne Croatia	22	9	6	7	29	21	24	'Sunshine G C' 11
Preston	22	9	6	7	30	28	24	Gary PRICE
Sunshine George Cross	22	8	7	7	25	22	23	'West Adelaide' 11
Brisbane Lions	22	9	4	9	29	29	22	Stuart STEVENSON
Green Gully	22	6	6	10	24	29	18	'Heidelberg' 11
Adelaide City	22	6	6	10	29	35	18	Paul LEWIS
West Adelaide	22	6	5	11	24	37	17	'Green Gully' 10
Brisbane City	22	6	5	11	25	42	17	Joe SWEENEY
Footscray	22	5	2	15	25	41	12	'Brunswick' 10
								Doug BROWN
								'South Melbourne' 9

Top Five Series

Elimination Final (at Olympic Park)

Melb Croatia 1	Josip Biskic 13
Preston 2	Jorgo Gagic 25
	Ljube Petrovski 40

Minor Semi Final (at Olympic Park)

Heidelberg 0	Sean Lane 64
Preston 2	o.g. 70 (Joe Angele)

Preliminary Final (at Olympic Park)

South Melbourne 4	Charlie Egan 12, 39, 84
	Doug Brown 116
Preston 4	Steve Smith 13
	Zoran Ilioski 20
	Gary Cole 87, 101

Preston won on penalties

Qualifying Final (at Olympic Park)

Heidelberg 0	Andrew Zinni 69
Brunswick 2	Richard Miranda 77

Major Semi Final (at Olympic Park)

South Melbourne 0	
Brunswick 1	Paul Wade 115

Grand Final (at Olympic Park)

Brunswick 2	Michael Petersen 8
	Paul Wade 85
Preston 1	Steve Smith 31
	Attendance: Approx 7,000
	Referee: Peter Rampley

1985 NSL Grand Final - 1st leg (at St George Stadium)

Sydney City Hakoah 0	
Brunswick Juventus 1	Fabio Incantalupo 38
	Attendance: 2,491
	Referee: Peter Rampley

Sydney: Tony Pezzano, Ean Rodrigues (Jean-Paul de Marigny), Alex Robertson, Steve O'Connor, Jim Cant, Grant Lee, Joe Watson, Murray Barnes (sent off 2nd half), Frank Farina, John Kosmina, David Mitchell. Coach: Eddie Thomson

Brunswick: Yakka Banovic, Mehmet Durakovic, John Dowie, Brian Brown, Eddie Campbell, Fabio Incantalupo, Mike Petersen, Paul Wade, Richard Miranda, Robbie Cullen, Joe Sweeney. Coach: John Margaritis

1985 Northern Conference

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Leading Goalscorers
Sydney Croatia	22	14	4	4	43	18	32	Jim PATIKAS
Sydney Olympic	22	9	9	4	33	22	27	'Sydney Croatia' 17
St George	22	11	5	6	33	29	27	Mark JANKOVICS
Marconi	22	9	7	6	35	23	25	'Marconi' 14
Sydney City (relegated)	22	8	8	6	36	27	24	Graham ARNOLD
Newcastle (relegated)	22	9	6	7	36	33	24	'Sydney Croatia' 12
APIA Leichhardt	22	9	6	7	25	23	24	Rod BROWN
Wollongong (relegated)	22	9	5	8	26	25	23	'Marconi' 11
Blacktown (relegated)	22	8	4	10	24	36	20	Frank FARINA
Canberra (relegated)	22	5	6	11	21	27	16	'Sydney City' 11
Marrickville (relegated)	22	2	7	13	17	41	11	David LOWE
Inter - Monaro (relegated)	22	3	5	14	18	43	11	'Marconi' 9
								Phil O'CONNOR
								'Blacktown City' 9

Top Five Series

Elimination Final (at St George)

Sydney Olympic 1	Alex Lambropoulos 64
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St George 0

1st Semi Final (at St George)

Marconi 3	Rod Brown 8
	Paul Carter 68
	Mark Jankovics 118

Sydney Olympic 3

	Marshall Soper 7
	Chris Polias 53, Alex Zervas 115

Marconi won 7-6 on penalties

Preliminary Final (at Marconi)

Marconi 1	Tony Henderson 71
Sydney Croatia 0	

Qualifying Final (at Marconi)

Sydney Croatia 2	Lee Sterrey o.g. 11
	Shane Clinch 49
	Rod Brown 17

2nd Semi Final (at St George)

Sydney City Hakoah 1	Grant Lee 54
Sydney Croatia 0	

Grand Final (at St George)

Sydney City 2	John Kosmina 7
	Frank Farina 53

Marconi 0

	Attendance: 3300
	Referee: Richard Lorenc

1985 NSL Grand Final - 2nd leg (at Olympic Park)

Brunswick Juventus 1	Fabio Incantalupo 41
Sydney City Hakoah 0	
	Attendance: 7,560
	Referee: Don Campbell

Brunswick: Yakka Banovic, Peter Lewis, Brian Brown, John Dowie, Eddie Campbell, Paul Wade, Richard Miranda, Mike Petersen, Fabio Incantalupo, Robbie Cullen, (Reno Minichiello), Joe Sweeney. Coach: John Margaritis

Sydney: Tony Pezzano, Alex Robertson (Peter Falconer, Graeme Fletcher), Ean Rodrigues, Steve O'Connor, Jean-Paul de Marigny, Joe Watson, Paul Kay, Jim Cant, Grant Lee, David Mitchell, Frank Farina. Coach: Eddie Thomson

1986 Southern Conference

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Leading Goalscorers
Brunswick Juventus	22	11	6	5	37	21	28	Andrew ZINNI
Footscray JUST	22	10	8	4	29	27	28	'Brunswick'
Adelaide Juventus	22	10	7	5	32	19	27	Gary COLE
Sunshine George Cross	22	8	11	3	26	17	27	'Preston Makedonia'
Heidelberg	22	9	8	5	35	25	26	Steve MAXWELL
Preston Makedonia	22	8	9	5	30	20	25	'Adelaide City'
South Melbourne Hellas	22	10	5	7	27	20	25	Alan HUNTER
Brisbane Lions (relegated)	22	7	5	10	27	28	19	'Heidelberg'
Adelaide Hellas (relegated)	22	7	4	11	26	34	18	Ossie LATIF
Melbourne Croatia	22	6	6	10	25	33	18	'Footscray JUST'
Brisbane City (relegated)	22	3	7	12	18	46	13	Joe MULLEN
Green Gully (relegated)	22	2	8	14	16	38	10	'Adelaide City'
								Charlie VILLANI
								'Adelaide City'

Top Five Series

Elimination Final (at Olympic Park)

Sunshine GC 2 John Campelj 15
Noel Mitten 52
Heidelberg 1 Nick Delligiannis 46
Att: Approx 7,000 Ref: Richard Lorenc

Qualifying Final (at Olympic Park)

Footscray JUST 2 Vlado Bozinovski 9
Vlatko Belic 47
Adelaide Juventus 3 Charlie Villani 38
Joe Mullen 53
Sergio Melta 76 (pen)
Att: Approx 7,000 Ref: Gary Power

Minor Semi Final (at Olympic Park)

Footscray JUST 2 Zoran Nikitovic 45 (pen)
Warren Spink 89
George Cross 0
Att: Approx 5,000 Ref: Bob Davies

Major Semi Final (at Hindmarsh Stadium)

Adelaide Juventus 2 Charlie Villani 67
Aurelio Vidmar 69
Brunswick Juventus 0
Att: 5,400 Ref: Jim Reeves

Preliminary Final (at Olympic Park)

Footscray JUST 2 Vojislav Vukcevic 89
Zdravko Lujic 98
Brunswick Juve. 1 Paul Wade 75
Att: Approx 4,000 Ref: Richard Lorenc

Grand Final (at Olympic Park)

Adelaide City Juve 2 Aurelio Vidmar 74
Steve Maxwell 79
Footscray JUST 1 Suleiman Curovic 48
Att: 6,158 Ref: Gary Power

NATIONAL GRAND FINAL - 1ST LEG (at Hindmarsh Stadium)

Adelaide Juventus 0

Sydney Olympic 1 Tony Dakos 79
Att: 12,232 Ref: Chris Bambridge

Adelaide: Willie McNally - Paul Shillabeer, Bugsy Nyskohus, Neville Flounders, Alex Tobin - Adrian Santrac (Paul Wilde 78), Sergio Melta, Charlie Villani, Aurelio Vidmar - Steve Maxwell, Joe Mullen Coach: Zoran Matic

Sydney: Gary Meier - Martin Rogers, Tony Dakos, Mike Coady, Manny Spanoudakis, Gary Phillips, Peter Raskopoulos, Vince Estavillo - Marshall Soper (Andy Stankovic 75), Alex Zervas, Chris Kalantzis (Terry Patalis 84) Coach: Manfred Schaefer

1986 Northern Conference

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Leading Goalscorers
Sydney Croatia	22	14	4	4	43	18	32	Graham ARNOLD
Sydney Olympic	22	9	9	4	33	22	27	'Sydney Croatia'
St George	22	11	5	6	33	29	27	John KOSMINA
Marconi	22	9	7	6	35	23	25	'Sydney City'
Sydney City (relegated)	22	8	8	6	36	27	24	Rod BROWN
Newcastle (relegated)	22	9	6	7	36	33	24	'Marconi'
APIA - Leichhardt	22	9	6	7	25	23	24	Mark JONES
Wollongong (relegated)	22	9	5	8	26	25	23	'Newcastle'
Blacktown (relegated)	22	8	4	10	24	36	20	Sean INGHAM
Canberra (relegated)	22	5	6	11	21	27	16	'Newcastle'
Marriokville (relegated)	22	2	7	13	17	41	11	Zjelko JURIN
Inter - Monaro (relegated)	22	3	5	14	18	43	11	'Sydney Croatia'
								Graeme FLETCHER
								'St George'

Top Five Series

Elimination Final (at St George Stadium)

Marconi 3 David Lowe 60
Mark Jankovics 82
Geoff Gunning 88
Sydney Hakoah 3 Frank Farina 7, 21, 57
Marconi won 4-3 on penalties
Att: 7,000 Ref: Stuart Mellings

Qualifying Final (at St George Stadium)

St George 1 Andy Koczka 16
Sydney Olympic 0
Att: 7,000 Ref: Bill Monteverde

Minor Semi Final (at St George Stadium)

Sydney Olympic 2 Gary Phillips 22 (pen)
Marshall Soper 88
Marconi 1 David Lowe 1

Major Semi Final (at St George Stadium)

Sydney Croatia 0
St George 3 Pedro Ricoy 8
Andy Koczka 11
Scott Ollerenshaw 55

Ref: Jim Rossis

Ref: Chris Bambridge

Preliminary Final (at St George Stadium)

Sydney Croatia 3 Zarko Odzakovic 21 pen
Graham Arnold 57, Zeljko Jurin 63
Sydney Olympic 4 Gary Phillips 51 (pen)
Marshall Soper 65, 75, Stuart Johnstone 102
Att: 8,305 Ref: Don Campbell

Grand Final (at Parramatta Stadium)

St George 2 Peter Petkovski 35
John O'Shea 54
Sydney Olympic 3 Gary Phillips 32
Marshall Soper 66, Chris Kalantzis 116
Att: 11,305 Ref: Bill Monteverde

NATIONAL FINAL - 2ND LEG (at Parramatta Stadium)

Sydney Olympic 1

Stuart Johnstone 66
Adelaide Juventus 3 Sergio Melta 31 (pen), Steve Maxwell 44, Charlie Villani 59
Att: 14,032 Ref: Don Campbell

Sydney: Gary Meier - Martin Rogers, Mike Coady (Patalis 69), Peter Raskopoulos, Andy Stankovic (Alex Zervas 25), Manny Spanoudakis - Gary Phillips, Vince Estavillo, Stuart Johnstone - Marshall Soper (R63), Chris Kalantzis Coach: Manfred Schaefer

Adelaide: Willie McNally - Paul Shillabeer, Bugsy Nyskohus, Neville Flounders, Adrian Santrac, Alex Tobin - Sergio Melta, Charlie Villani, Aurelio Vidmar (Wilde 78) - Steve Maxwell, Joe Mullen Coach: Zoran Matic

1987

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
APIA Leichhardt	24	13	9	2	39	21	35
Preston	24	11	7	6	32	22	29
St George	24	12	5	7	31	24	29
Marconi	24	11	5	8	31	25	27
Sydney Croatia	24	10	6	8	31	25	26
South Melbourne Hellas	24	9	7	8	32	34	25
Sydney Olympic	24	7	9	8	29	32	23
Brunswick Juventus	24	9	5	10	18	23	23
Melbourne Croatia	24	9	5	10	22	30	23
Adelaide Juventus	24	6	10	8	29	23	22
Footscray JUST	24	7	8	9	17	27	22
Sunshine George Cross	24	3	9	12	26	42	15
*Heidelberg United (relegated)	24	3	7	14	25	44	13

APIA Leichhardt crowned National Champions

Final Five Series

(NOT part of the Championship process)

Elimination Final (at St George Stadium)

Marconi 3 Frank Farina, Zlatko Nastevski, Tom McCulloch

Sydney Croatia 2 Shane Clinch, Graham Arnold

Preliminary Semi Final (at St George Stadium)

St George 2 Scott Ollerenshaw 2

Preston 1 George Sifkas

Minor Semi Final (at Olympic Park)

Preston 2 Steve Smith, Goce Dimovski

Marconi 2 Frank Farina, Gerry Gomez

Preston won 5-3 on penalties

Major Semi Final (at St George Stadium)

St George 2 Craig Moffitt, Graeme Fletcher

APIA Leichhardt 1 Hilton Phillips

Preliminary Final (at Olympic Park)

APIA-Leichhardt 0

Preston 0

APIA won 3-1 on penalties

Grand Final - November 1 (at Parramatta Stadium)

St George 4 Kevin Hagan 20, 72
Scott Ollerenshaw 42
Pedro Ricoy 44

APIA-Leichhardt 0

Attendance: 6,961 Ref: Richard Lorenc

Leading Goalscorers

Frank FARINA	16
'Marconi'	
Rod BROWN	14
'APIA Leichhardt'	
Paul LEWIS	10
'Melbourne Croatia'	
Steve SMITH	10
'Preston'	
Joe MULLEN	9
'Adelaide City'	
Robbie SLATER	9
'Sydney Croatia'	
Charlie VILLANI	9
'Adelaide City'	
Ron CAMPBELL	8
'Preston'	
John MARKOVSKI	8
'Sunshine'	
Paul WADE	8
'South Melbourne'	

Did You Know????

The reduction in teams (from 24 to 14) sparked a transfer frenzy. Some of the major moves included:-

- Danny Wright, Brisbane Lions to South Melbourne
- John Kosmina, Sydney City to Sydney Olympic
- Robbie Slater, Blacktown to Sydney Croatia
- Rod Brown, Marconi to APIA
- Charlie Yankos, West Adelaide Hellas to APIA
- Robbie Dunn, West Adelaide Hellas to APIA

To Show or Not To Show.

SBS television were keen to show live matches each week but the NSL clubs were not. In the end, a compromise was reached and six matches were shown.

Did You Know????

Sydney City withdrew from the 1987 season after just one round, when the club had its funding withdrawn by the Hakoah Social Club.

1988

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
*Wollongong City	26	13	8	5	44	32	34
Sydney Croatia	26	15	4	7	38	30	34
South Melbourne Hellas	26	13	8	5	36	29	34
Marconi Fairfield	26	12	8	6	46	26	32
Sydney Olympic	26	9	9	8	28	22	27
Adelaide City	26	10	7	9	36	35	27
Sunshine George Cross	26	11	5	10	38	39	27
St George	26	10	6	10	41	35	26
Melbourne Croatia	26	9	6	11	28	33	24
Footscray JUST	26	7	9	10	34	32	23
APIA Leichhardt	26	8	7	11	28	35	23
Preston	26	5	12	9	29	35	22
Brunswick Juventus	26	7	5	14	31	43	19
*Brisbane Lions (Relegated)	26	4	4	18	28	59	12

Final Five Series

Elimination Final (at St George Stadium, aet)

Marconi 3 Zlatko Nastevski 104, 111

Peter Katholos 82

Sydney Olympic 1 Terry Patalis

Att: 6,200

Preliminary Semi-final (at Marconi Stadium)

Sydney Croatia 2 Sean Ingham 72, Mark Jones 97

South Melbourne 1 Angie Postecoglou 30

Att: 4,561

Minor Semi Final (at Olympic Park, aet)

South Melbourne 1 Danny Wright 67

Marconi 2 Ian Gray 79, Vince Colagiuri 95

Att: 5,232

Major Semi-final (at Marconi Stadium)

Wollongong City 0

Sydney Croatia 0

Sydney Croatia won 4-3 on penalties

Att: 7,106

Preliminary Final (at Croatian Sports Centre)

Marconi 2 David Lowe 55, Frank Farina 57

Wollongong City 0

Att: 3,592

Grand Final (at Parramatta Stadium)

Marconi 2 Steve Calderan 39

Zlatko Nastevski 116 (pen)

Sydney Croatia 2 Alan Hunter 57 Manis Lamond 108

set - 1-1 after normal time. Marconi won 3-2 on penalties

Att: 17,064 Ref: Chris Bambridge

Leading Goalscorers

Frank FARINA	16
'Marconi'	
Paul LEWIS	13
'Melbourne Croatia'	
Warren SPINK	13
'Footscray JUST'	
Steve MAXWELL	11
'Adelaide City'	
Zlatko NASTEVSKI	11
'Marconi'	
Joe PALATSIDES	11
'Brunswick'	
Graham ARNOLD	10
'Sydney Croatia'	
Charlie EGAN	10
'Brunswick'	
Scott OLLERENSHAW	10
'St George'	
Randall EASTHORPE	9
'Wollongong City'	
Manis LAMOND	9
'Sydney Croatia'	
Sergio MELTA	9
'Adelaide City'	
Hilton PHILLIPS	9
'APIA Leichhardt'	
Paul TRIMBOLI	8
'South Melbourne'	

Gooooaaaal!!!!!!

The last kick of Marconi captain Tony Henderson's NSL career was the decisive penalty in the grand final penalty shoot-out.

Missed Opportunity...

The 1988 season was punctuated by the Bi-Centennial Gold Cup tournament in July, when the Socceroos stunned Argentina 4-1.

Further heroics later in the year at the Olympic Games set the stage for a resurgence in interest, only for the bubble to burst with World Cup elimination against Israel the following year.

How They Fared.— NSL Regular Season Final Placings 1977 – 1999

	Yrs in.	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	89-90	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95	95-96	96-97	97-98	98-99	
Eastern Suburbs Hakoah / Sydney City	10	1	2	3	1	1	1	2	a1	n1	s5														Sydney City Hakoah / Sydney City
Marconi Fairfield	23	2	4	1	4	14	10	9	a3	n3	n4														4 Marconi Fairfield
Fitzroy Alexander / Heidelberg United	17	3	5	2	2	8	4	6	b2	s3	s5														4 Fitzroy Alexander / Heidelberg United
Adelaide City Juventus	23	4	10	5	5	7	13	11	b7	s9	s3														6 Adelaide City Juventus
Western Suburbs	2	5	9																						6 Western Suburbs
St George Budapest	14	6	7	11	14		2	1	a10	n5	n3														6 St George Budapest
West Adelaide Hellas / Sharks	19	7	1	7	13	16	9	13	b11	s10	s9														13 West Adelaide Hellas / Sharks
Footscray JUST / Melbourne City JUST	12	8	12	10	9	13	14	12	b8	s12	s2														13 Footscray JUST / Melbourne City JUST
Brisbane Lions	11	9	6	9	7	6	11	16	b4	s7	s8														13 Brisbane Lions
Brisbane City	10	10	14	4	12	3	16	14	b10	s11	s11														13 Brisbane City
South Melbourne Hellas	23	11	3	14	3	2	6	4	b1	s12	s7														2 South Melbourne
Sydney UTS / Olympic	22	12	8	13		9	8	7	a2	n4	n2														7 Sydney UTS / Olympic
Canberra Arrows / City	10	13	13	12	10	5	15	10	a9	n6	n10														7 Canberra Arrows / City
Mooroolbark	1	14																							7 Mooroolbark
Newcastle KB / Rosebud	15		11	6	6	10	12	5	a8	n12	n6														APIA Leichhardt
APIA Leichhardt	14			8	8	4	7	8	a4	n9	n7														APIA Leichhardt
Blacktown City	7				11	15			a5	n8	n9														Blacktown City
Wollongong City / Wolves	18					11	3	15	a12	n10	n8														10 Wollongong City / Wolves
Preston Makedonia	13				12	5	3		b6	s5	s6														10 Preston Makedonia
Sydney Croatia	16								a6	n2	n1														1 Sydney Croatia
Penrith	2								a7	n11															1 Penrith
Melita / Parramatta Eagles	7								a11																Melita / Parramatta Eagles
Melbourne Croatia / Knights	16								b3	s4	s10														12 Melbourne Croatia / Knights
Brunswick Juventus / Melbourne Zebras	6								b5	s2	s1														Brunswick Juventus / Melbourne Zebras
Green Gully Ajax	3								b9	s8	s12														Green Gully Ajax
Sunshine George Cross	8								b12	s6	s4														Sunshine - George Cross
Inter Monaro	2									n7	n12														Inter - Monaro
Canterbury Marrickville	1										n11														Canterbury Marrickville
Wollongong Macedonia	1																								Wollongong Macedonia
Newcastle Breakers	7																								8 Newcastle Breakers
Brisbane Strikers	8																								9 Brisbane Strikers
Morwell / Gippsland Falcons	7																								14 Morwell / Gippsland Falcons
Canberra Cosmos	4																								15 Canberra Cosmos
Collingwood Warriors	1																								Collingwood Warriors
Perth Glory	3																								3 Perth Glory
Carlton	2																								11 Carlton Blues
Northern Spirit	1																								5 Northern Spirit

a = Australian Conference
n = Northern Conference

b = National Conference
s = Southern Conference

1989

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Marconi	26	16	6	4	62	24	38
St George	26	12	8	6	33	24	32
Sydney Olympic	26	11	9	6	37	26	31
Melbourne Croatia	26	13	5	8	44	35	31
Preston Makedonia	26	11	8	7	31	24	30
Adelaide City	26	10	8	8	29	24	28
Sydney Croatia	26	10	8	8	25	25	28
South Melbourne Hellas	26	9	8	9	44	37	26
Wollongong	26	8	7	11	22	29	23
APIA Leichhardt	26	7	9	10	27	35	23
Sunshine George Cross	26	7	5	14	25	38	19
*Blacktown City	26	5	9	12	28	50	19
Melbourne JUST (relegated)	26	5	8	13	24	37	18
Heidelberg (relegated)	26	7	4	15	22	45	18

Top Five Series

Elimination Final (at Olympic Park)
Melbourne Croatia 2 Branko Milsosovic 63
 Zeljko Adzic 56

Preston 0

Qualifying Final (at Barton Park)
St George 1 Scott Ollerenshaw 61
Sydney Olympic 0

1st Semi Final
Sydney Olympic 3 Alistair Edwards 12
 Abbas Saad 57
 John Koch 96
Melbourne Croatia 2 Francis Awaritefe 21
 Zeljko Adzic 64

2nd Semi Final (at Marconi)
Marconi 1 Zlatko Nasteovski 43
St George 0

Preliminary Final (at Barton Park)
Sydney Olympic 1 Abbas Saad 75
St George 0

Grand Final (at Parramatta)
Marconi 1 Zlatko Nasteovski 91
Sydney Olympic 0
 Attendance: 23,387
 Referee: Jim Reeves

Marconi: Bob Catlin, Matteo Colucci (R39), Robert Wheatley, Steve Calderon, Jean-Paul de Marigny, Tommy McCulloch, Peter Katholos, Ian Gray, Zlatko Nasteovski, David Lowe (Gerry Gomez), Fred de Jong
 Sydney Olympic: Gary Meier, David Barrett (Andrew Bernal), Robbie Hooker, George Haniotis, Steve Georgakis, Grant Lee, Robert Ironside, John Koch, Jason Polak, Alastair Edwards, Abbas Saad

Leading Goalscorers

Zlatko NASTEVSKEI	20
'Marconi'	
Fred DEJONG	13
'Marconi'	
Zeljko ADZIC	
'Melbourne Croatia'	11
Scott OLLERENSHAW	
'St George'	11
Ivan KELIC	
'Melbourne Croatia'	10
Paul TRIMBOLI	
'South Melbourne'	10
Zlatko ARAMBASIC	
'Blacktown City'	9
Francis AWARITEFE	
'Melbourne Croatia'	9
Paul LEWIS	
'Sunshine'	9
Matthew BINGLEY	
'St George'	8
Ian GRAY	
'Marconi'	8
Angie POSTECOGLOU	
'South Melbourne'	8
Warren SPINK	
'Preston'	8

Player

Merry-Go-Round

The player drain was already past the novelty stage with twenty-three players based overseas compared to only five in 1985. The number of avenues to Europe had grown as well, with players finding employment in England, Yugoslavia, Greece, Belgium, Finland, Scotland, France and West Germany. Holland, Portugal and South-east Asia would follow shortly.

Spectator Watch

Attendances were another consideration in the switch to summer soccer. Marconi topped the 1989 averages with 4,375 while Blacktown brought up the rear with 1,165.

1989-90

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Marconi	26	16	6	4	51	24	38
South Melbourne	26	15	6	5	42	23	36
Melbourne Croatia	26	14	7	5	49	26	35
Adelaide City	26	13	8	5	39	23	34
Sydney Olympic	26	12	7	7	40	25	31
APIA Leichhardt	26	11	9	6	36	25	31
Sydney Croatia	26	10	6	10	40	39	26
*Parramatta Eagles	26	10	6	10	31	31	26
Preston Makedonia	26	9	5	12	33	35	23
St George	26	7	7	12	35	44	21
Wollongong	26	8	4	14	30	48	20
Sunshine George Cross	26	6	5	15	24	49	17
*West Adelaide (relegated)	26	5	4	17	21	54	14
Blacktown (relegated)	26	4	4	18	30	55	12

Top Five Series

Elimination Final
Sydney Olympic 2 Grant Lee 22, 33
Adelaide City 1 Aurelio Vidmar 7

Qualifying Final
South Melbourne 1 Peter Tsolakis 7
Melbourne Croatia 1 Joe Caleta 23
 Melbourne Knights won 7 - 6 on penalties.

1st Semi Final
Sydney Olympic 1 Alastair Edwards 57
South Melbourne 0

2nd Semi Final
Marconi 1 Fred De Jong 88
Melbourne Croatia 0

Preliminary Final
Sydney Olympic 2 Robert Ironside 37,
 Abbas Saad 81
Melbourne Croatia 1 Francis Awaritefe 30

Grand Final
Marconi 0
Sydney Olympic 2 Alastair Edwards 34
 Robert Ironside 61
 Attendance: 26,352 *NSL record

What if...?

Sydney Olympic won the grand final but they almost never made the finals! APIA needed one point from their last match to seal fifth spot, but went down 0-1 at Melbourne Croatia, allowing Olympic to sneak the last finals spot on goal difference.

Leading Goalscorers

David SEAL	
'Sydney Croatia'	15
Greg BROWN	
'Parramatta Eagles'	14
Tony KRSLOVIC	
'St George'	14
Abbas SAAD	
'Sydney Olympic'	12
Kimon TALIADOROS	
'South Melbourne'	12
Peter TSOLAKIS	
'South Melbourne'	12
Zeljko ADZIC	
'Melbourne Croatia'	11
Zlatko NASTEVSKEI	
'Marconi'	11
Rod BROWN	
'APIA Leichhardt'	10

The Switch to Summer...

...came about simply because it had to. Soccer could not compete with the other three winter codes for media coverage, with the VFL in particular, freshly expanded to include the West Coast Eagles and Brisbane Bears, ready to take corporate sport in Australia to a new level. There were a number of other significant advantages with the change in seasons, however, including the obvious one of bringing Australian soccer into line with the European season, allowing (in theory) for greater access to overseas player release and tours by European countries to these shores. But the real benefit would come later, with improved playing surfaces playing a major role in the development of players.

Sadly, the league still had an image problem, with only Blacktown and Wollongong being non-ethnic backed clubs.

Did You Know?

Sydney Olympic player Gary Phillips announced his retirement from the game to take up a job in Hong Kong promoting surfing.

Gooooaaal!!!!!!

Pat Brodnik of Wollongong City scored six goals against West Adelaide - a NSL record

1990-91

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Melbourne Croatia	26	15	7	4	55	39	37
South Melbourne Hellas	26	14	6	6	45	33	34
Adelaide City	26	12	9	5	40	24	33
Marconi	26	14	3	9	48	33	31
Parramatta Eagles	26	10	9	7	38	31	29
Sydney Olympic	26	8	13	5	31	25	29
Sydney Croatia	26	8	10	8	27	33	26
Preston Makedonia	26	8	9	9	26	27	25
Wollongong City	26	8	8	10	32	34	24
St George Budapest (relegated)	26	6	10	10	34	41	22
APIA Leichhardt	26	7	7	12	27	28	21
*Heidelberg Utd	26	6	9	11	26	37	21
Sunshine George Cross (releg)	26	7	3	16	39	53	17
*Wollongong Macedonia (releg)	26	3	9	14	23	53	15

Top Five Series

Elimination Final (at Parramatta)

Marconi 3	Ian Gray 54, Tom McCulloch 76 David Lowe 119
Melita Eagles 3	Greg Brown 39, Aytac Genc 61 Andrew Callanan 94

Marconi won 7-6 on pens (2-2 at full time)

Qualifying Final (at Olympic Park)

South Melbourne 4	Paul Trimboli 21, Alex Tobin og 67 Paul Wade 80 (pen)
Adelaide City 2	Kimon Taliadoros 87 Sergio Melia 24 Ernie Tapai 60

1st Semi Final

Adelaide City 1	Joe Mullen 93
Marconi 0	

2nd Semi Final

Melbourne Croatia 1	Francis Awaritefe 59
South Melbourne 0	

Preliminary Final

South Melbourne 1	Paul Trimboli 70
Adelaide City 0	

Grand Final

Melbourne Croatia 1	Andrew Marth 25
South Melbourne 1	Joe Palatsides 88
South Melbourne won 5-4 on pens.	
Attendance: 23,318	
Joe Marston Medal: Josip Biskic (Melb Croatia)	

Leading Goalscorers

David SEAL	
'Marconi'	19
Ivan KELIC	
'Melbourne Croatia'	17
Andrew HARPER	
'St George'	15
Tony KRSLOVIC	
'Sydney Croatia'	12
Greg BROWN	
'Parramatta'	11
Francis AWARITEFE	
'Melbourne Croatia'	10
Steve MAXWELL	
'Adelaide City'	10
Derek HUNTER	
'Sunshine'	9
John MARKOVSKI	
'Marconi'	9
Marshall SOPER	
'Parramatta'	9
Warren SPINK	
'Preston Makedonia'	9
Carl VEART	
'Adelaide City'	9

Gooooooooo!!!!!!
Ivan Kelic equalled the NSL record by scoring six goals for Melbourne Croatia against Wollongong Macedonia in March.

Seven years bad luck?

South Melbourne scratched their seven-year itch with a dramatic come-from-behind shoot-out victory in front of their own fans, and cementing coach Ferenc Puskas' love of Melbourne. Unfortunately for Souths, there was another seven year itch just ahead.....

Did You Know?

St George drew six matches in a row during the 90/91 season.

1991-92

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Melbourne CSC	26	14	7	5	45	26	35
Sydney Olympic	26	12	10	4	38	27	34
South Melbourne	26	13	5	8	51	28	31
Adelaide City	26	10	9	7	26	23	29
Wollongong City	26	9	10	7	24	17	28
*Brisbane United	26	8	10	8	31	35	26
Marconi Fairfield	26	10	5	11	33	31	25
APIA Leichhardt	26	7	11	8	26	28	25
Heidelberg United	26	8	8	10	28	33	24
Parramatta Eagles	26	6	11	9	24	24	23
*Newcastle Breakers	26	7	8	11	28	39	22
Sydney Croatia	26	6	9	11	22	33	21
*West Adelaide	26	7	7	12	25	46	21
Preston	26	5	10	11	21	32	20

Top Five Series

Elimination Final (at Hindmarsh)

Adelaide City 1	Carl Veart 5
Wollongong City 0	

Qualifying Final (at Parramatta)

Sydney Olympic 0	
South Melbourne 2	Danny Wright 43, Michael Michalakopoulos 87

Minor Semi Final (at Parramatta)

Sydney Olympic 1	Abbas Saad 75
Adelaide City 2	Carl Veart 18, 117 (a.e.t.)

Major Semi final (at Olympic Park)

Melbourne CSC 0	
South Melbourne 0	
Melb CSC won 5-3 on pens	

Preliminary Final (at Olympic Park)

South Melbourne 0	
Adelaide City 2	Ross Aloisi 49, Carl Veart 75

Grand Final (at Olympic Park)

Melbourne CSC 0	
Adelaide City 0	
Adelaide City won 4-2 on pens	
Attendance: 15,463	
Joe Marston Medal: Alex Tobin (Ad City)	

Leading Goalscorers

Tim BREDBURY	
'Sydney Olympic'	15
Kimon TALIADOROS	
'South Melbourne'	15
Francis AWARITEFE	
'Melbourne C S C'	14
Damian MORI	
'Melbourne C S C'	11
Robert IRONSIDE	
'Sydney Olympic'	9
David SEAL	
'Marconi Fairfield'	9
Warren SPINK	
'Preston Makedonia'	9
Paul TRIMBOLI	
'South Melbourne'	9
Greg BROWN	
'Parramatta'	8
John GIBSON	
'APIA Leichhardt'	8
Andrew HARPER	
'Marconi'	8
Marshall SOPER	
'Parramatta'	8

A Step in the Right Direction.

The inclusion of Brisbane, Newcastle and a second Adelaide team gave the league a badly needed shot in the arm. The league was further boosted by the fact it was the first time in the history of the NSL that teams from four separate population bases had teams in a single division finals series.

Encouraged by that (and the fact Brisbane finished sixth) and following the lead of other codes, it was decided to expand the finals series to six teams.

Did You Know?

The ramifications of the clash between Preston and Heidelberg (and their supporters) were far reaching, with Preston being docked four points at the beginning of the 92/93 season.

1992-93

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Melbourne	26	18	4	4	51	23	58
Marconi Fairfield	26	17	2	7	57	31	53
Adelaide City	26	12	5	9	37	34	41
Wollongong Wolves	26	11	6	9	33	27	39
West Adelaide Sharks	26	12	3	11	43	39	39
Parramatta Eagles	26	11	6	9	39	41	39
Sydney CSC	26	12	3	11	36	41	39
Newcastle Breakers	26	10	8	8	38	29	38
Sydney Olympic	26	10	4	12	36	31	34
Melbourne CSC	26	10	4	12	38	39	34
Heidelberg Utd	26	7	9	10	30	40	30
*Morwell Falcons	26	7	7	12	29	43	28
Preston (relegated)	26	6	4	16	28	45	18
Brisbane United	26	5	3	18	32	64	18

Leading Goalscorers

Francis AWARITEFE	'South Melbourne'	18
Warren SPINK	'Newcastle'	16
Andrew HARPER	'Marconi'	15
Jose IRIARTE	'West Adelaide'	14
David SEAL	'Sydney Olympic'	12
Carl VEART	'Adelaide City'	12
Kimon TALIADOROS	'Marconi'	11
Con BOUTSIANIS	'South Melbourne'	10
Greg BROWN	'West Adelaide'	10
Tony KRSLVIC	'Sydney United'	10

Top Six Series

1st Elim Final - 1st leg (at Adelaide Oval)

Adelaide City 0	Jose Iriarte 49
West Adelaide 1	

1st Elim Final - 2nd leg (at Football Park)

West Adelaide 1	Brenton Heim 87
Adelaide City 2	Steve Maxwell 39, 75

2nd Elim Final - 1st leg (at Brandon Park)

Wollongong City 3	Mike O'Shea 3, o.g. 70 Charlie Yankos 81
Parramatta Eagles 0	

2nd Elim Final - 2nd leg (at Parramatta)

Parramatta Eagles 2	Gabriel Mendez 30 Marshall Soper 92
Wollongong City 1	Matthew Horsley

Major Semi Final - 1st leg (at Olympic Park)

South Melbourne 0	
Marconi Fairfield 1	Steve Corica 67

Major Semi Final - 2nd leg (at Parramatta)

Marconi Fairfield 7	Andy Harper 7, 34 Jean-Paul de Marigny 9
Kimon Taliadoros 59, Gary van Egmond 68 Glenn Johnson, 81, Blagoja Kuleski 85	
South Melbourne 0	

Minor Semi Final (at Hindmarsh)

Adelaide City 4	Carl Veart 2, 77 Damian Mori 59 Steve Maxwell 70
Wollongong City 0	

Preliminary Final (at Olympic Park)

South Melbourne 1	Francis Awaritefe 87
Adelaide City 3	Sergio Melta 3 Damian Mori 26, 74

Final May 16 (at Parramatta)

Marconi 1	Andy Harper 52pen
Adelaide City 0	

Attendance: 13,376 Referee: John Fraser Joe Marston Medal: Milan Ivanovic

Marconi: Mark Schwarzer, George Jolevski, Jean-Paul de Marigny, Matthew Bingley, Blagoja Kuleski (Ufuk Talay), Ermanno Pelucchi, Kimon Taliadoros (Glenn Johnson), Steve Corica, Ian Gray, Andy Harper, Gary Van Egmond Coach: Frank Arok

Adelaide City: Robert Zabica, Paul Shillabeer, Tony Vidmar, Milan Ivanovic, Alex Tobin, Carlo Talladira, Damian Mori, Carl Veart, Sergio Melta, Steve Maxwell, Joe Mullen, (Robert Csoboth) Coach: Zoran Matic

1993-94

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Melbourne Knights	26	16	5	5	59	24	53
South Melbourne	26	13	8	5	39	20	47
Sydney United	26	13	7	6	31	29	46
Marconi Fairfield	26	11	9	6	52	33	42
Adelaide City	26	11	8	7	48	27	41
Sydney Olympic	26	11	8	7	40	37	41
Morwell Falcons	26	11	7	8	31	30	40
Brisbane Strikers	26	10	6	10	28	25	36
West Adelaide	26	10	5	11	41	34	35
Parramatta Eagles	26	8	9	9	27	29	33
Wollongong City	26	6	9	11	24	32	27
Newcastle Breakers (#)	26	5	8	13	30	47	23
*Brunswick Pumas	26	5	4	17	22	57	19
Heidelberg United	26	3	5	18	19	67	14

Newcastle withdrew on the eve of the 1994/95 season due to financial difficulties.

Leading Goalscorers

Mark VIDUKA	'Melbourne Knights'	16
Ivan KELIC	'Sydney Olympic'	14
Carl VEART	'Adelaide City'	14
Greg BROWN	'West Adelaide'	13
Andrew HARPER	'Marconi'	13
Warren SPINK	'Newcastle'	13
John MARKOVSKI	'Morwell'	11
Francis AWARITEFE	'South Melbourne'	10
Adrian CERVINSKI	'Melbourne Knights'	9

Top Six Series

1st Elim Final - 1st leg (at Hindmarsh)

Adelaide City 0	Ante Moric 56
Sydney Utd 1	

1st Elim Final - 2nd leg (at Marconi)

Sydney Utd 0	Brad Hassell 55 Damian Mori 78
Adelaide City 2	

2nd Elim Final - 1st leg (at Parramatta)

Sydney Olympic 2	Ivan Kelic 25 Brad Maloney 70
Marconi 1	Jean-Paul de Marigny 37

2nd Elim Final - 2nd leg (at Parramatta)

Marconi 3	Steve Corica 11 Kimon Taliadoros 30 Jean-Paul de Marigny 60
Sydney Olympic 1	Kris Trajanovski 76

Major S F - 1st leg (at Olympic Park)

South Melbourne 1	Paul Trimboli 81
Melbourne Knights 2	Adrian Cervinski 20, 66

Major S F - 2nd leg (at Olympic Park)

Melbourne Knights 2	Mark Viduka 10 Fausto De Amicis 81 Paul Wade 41
South Melbourne 2	Francis Awaritefe 80

Minor Semi Final - April 20 (at Parramatta)

Marconi 1	Andy Harper 73
Adelaide City 3	Joe Mullen 25 Damian Mori 27, Brad Hassell 66

Preliminary Final - April 24 (at Olympic Park)

South Melbourne 0	Tony Vidmar 65 Brad Hassell 86
Adelaide City 2	

Grand Final - May 1 (at Olympic Park)

Melbourne Knights 0	
Adelaide City 1	Damian Mori 68

Attendance: 13,970 Referee: Richard Lorenc Joe Marston Medal: Alex Tobin (Ad City)

Knights: David Miller, David Cervinski, Fausto De Amicis, Vinko Buljbasic, Vlado Vanis, Steve Horvat, Joe Biskic, Andrew Marth, Zoran Trajceovski, Adrian Cervinski, Mark Viduka, Coach: Mirko Bazic

Adelaide City: Robert Zabica, Sergio Melta, Tony Vidmar, Milan Ivanovic, Alex Tobin, Joe Mullen, Carlo Talladira, Damian Mori, Carl Veart, Goran Lozanovski, Brad Hassell. Coach: Zoran Matic

1994-95

	P	W	D+(S)	L	F	A	Pts
Melbourne Knights	24	16	4 (2)	4	56	25	70
Adelaide City	24	16	4 (1)	4	41	20	69
Sydney United	24	15	5 (3)	4	34	19	68
Morwell Falcons	24	8	11 (4)	5	41	37	47
West Adelaide	24	9	8 (5)	8	28	32	45
South Melbourne Hellas	24	9	5 (3)	10	42	36	44
Brisbane Strikers	24	8	6 (3)	10	34	32	41
Wollongong	24	8	4 (2)	12	39	46	38
Sydney Olympic	24	8	4 (1)	12	27	34	37
Marconi Fairfield	24	6	7 (4)	11	34	43	35
Melbourne Zebras (relegated)	24	6	6 (4)	12	20	37	34
Parramatta Eagles (relegated)	24	7	3 (2)	14	25	34	33
Heidelberg United (relegated)	24	6	3 (1)	15	27	53	28

(S): If scores were level after 90 minutes, a penalty shoot-out was used to decide the winner, who received one bonus point.
The system was abolished after one season.

Leading Goalscorers	
Mark VIDUKA	
'Melbourne Knights' 18	
Damian MORI	
'Adelaide City' 17	
Ivan KELIC	
'South Melbourne' 13	
Vaughan COVENY	
'Wollongong' 12	
Joe SPITERI	
'Melbourne Knights' 10	
Rod BROWN	
'Brisbane Strikers' 9	
Slobodan DESPOTOVSKI	
'Heidelberg' 9	
Chris SLATER	
'Brisbane Strikers' 9	
Brian BOTHWELL	
'Morwell' 8	
Con BOUTSIANIS	

Top Six Series

1st Elim. final - 1st leg (at Falcons Park)
Morwell 0

South Melbourne 1 Ivan Kelic 60

1st Elim. final - 2nd leg (at Olympic Park)
South Melbourne 5 Paul Trimboli 12
Mike Peterson 30
Kevin Muscat 45
Con Boutsianis 59
Jason Polak 64
John Markovski 67

Morwell 1

2nd Elim. final - 1st leg (at Hindmarsh)
West Adelaide 1 Robbie Hooker 45 pen
Sydney Utd 1 Mario Jerman 90

2nd Elim. final - 2nd leg (at Edensor Park)
Sydney Utd 1 Ante Milicic 49
West Adelaide 0

Major semi final - 1st leg (at Hindmarsh)
Adelaide City 1 Damian Mori 12 pen
Melbourne Knights 0

Major semi final - 2nd leg (at Somers St)
Melbourne Knights 1 Danny Tiatto 2
Adelaide City 2 Sergio Melta 7
Brad Hassell 55

1st semi final (at Marconi)
Sydney Utd 1 Mario Jerman 76
South Melbourne 3 Kevin Muscat 70 pen
73, Ivan Kelic 87

Preliminary final (at Olympic Park)
Melbourne Knights 3 Mark Viduka 27,38,53
South Melbourne 2 Con Boutsianis 39,71

Grand Final - May 7 (at Hindmarsh)

Adelaide City 0
Melbourne Knights 2 Andrew Marth 36, Joe Spiteri 42
Attendance: 15,573 Referee: Eddie Lennie Joe Marston Medal: Steve Horvat

Adelaide City: Jason Petkovic, Sergio Melta, Tony Vidmar, Milan Ivanovic, Alex Tobin, Carlo Talladira (Mark Yates), Damian Mori, Bradley Hassell, Joe Mullen, Goran Lozanovski (John Gibson), Craig Foster. Coach: Zoran Matic
Melbourne Knights: Frank Juric, Vinko Buljbasic, Fausto De Amicis, David Cervinski, Steve Horvat, Andrew Marth, Joe Spiteri, Kresimir Marusic (Damien Organovic), Mark Viduka, Oliver Pondeljak (Ante Kovacevic). Coach: Mirko Bazic

1995-96

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Marconi Fairfield	33	17	9	7	58	35	60
Melbourne Knights	33	17	8	8	50	28	59
UTS Olympic	33	17	8	8	55	41	59
Brisbane Strikers	33	17	6	10	54	35	57
Adelaide City	33	15	9	9	65	40	54
Sydney United	33	14	12	7	47	33	54
West Adelaide	33	16	5	12	49	43	53
South Melbourne Hellas	33	14	4	15	50	56	46
*Canberra Cosmos	33	8	11	14	48	61	35
Morwell Falcons	33	9	8	16	35	65	35
Wollongong City	33	5	5	23	31	63	20
*Newcastle Breakers	33	4	5	24	35	77	17

Top Six Series

Preliminary Semi Final (1)

1st leg - May 5 (at Hindmarsh Stadium)
Adelaide City 2 Brad Hassell 6, 47
UTS Olympic 0

2nd leg - May 12 (at Leichhardt Oval)
UTS Olympic 0
Adelaide City 1 Dino Menillo 72

Preliminary Semi Final (2)

1st leg - May 5 (at Edensor Park)
Sydney United 2 David Zdrilic 13
Ante Moric 59

2nd leg - May 11 (at Suncorp)
Brisbane Strikers 1 Frank Farina 43
Sydney United 2 Manis Lamond 84
Ante Moric 89

Major Semi Final

1st leg - May 5 (at Somers St)
Melbourne Knights 1 Adrian Cervinski 61
Marconi Fairfield 0

2nd leg - May 11 (at Marconi Stadium)
Marconi Fairfield 2 Eric Hristodoulou 52
Brad Maloney 64
Melbourne Knights 2 Tom Pondeljak 22
David Cervinski 35

Minor Semi Final

May 15 (at Hindmarsh Stadium)
Adelaide City 1 Bradley Armour 44
Sydney United 0

Preliminary Final

May 19 (at Parramatta Stadium)
Marconi Fairfield 4 Brendan Renaud 3
Brad Maloney 4, 79
Francis Awaritefe 31
Alex Tobin 43 pen

Adelaide City 1

Grand Final - May 26 (at Olympic Park)

Melbourne Knights 2 Andrew Marth 58, Adrian Cervinski 76
Marconi Fairfield 1 Andy Harper 78
Attendance: 14,258 Referee: Eddie Lennie Joe Marston Medal: Andrew Marth
Melbourne Knights: Vison Knezevic, Fausto De Amicis, David Cervinski, Andrew Marth, Zoran Markovski, Joe Simunic, Lubo Lapsansky, Ante Kovacevic (Vinko Buljbasic), John Markovski (Dragi Nastevski), Adrian Cervinski, Tom Pondeljak (Joe Bacak)
Coach: Ian Dobson
Marconi Fairfield: Bob Catlin, Gary Van Egmond (John Angelucci), Robbie Stanton, Andy Harper, Matthew Bingley, Eric Hristodoulou, Brad Maloney, Brendan Renaud, Dominic Longo, Paul Souris, Vlado Zoric Coach: Manfred Schaefer

Leading Goalscorers	
Damian MORI	
'Adelaide City' 31	
Frank FARINA	
'Brisbane Strikers' 19	
Kris TRAJANOVSKI	
'Sydney Olympic' 19	
Jim TSEKINIS	
'Adelaide Sharks' 16	
Andrew HARPER	
'Marconi' 14	
Francis AWARITEFE	
'Marconi' 13	
Rod BROWN	
'Brisbane Strikers' 13	
Bradley HASSELL	
'Adelaide City' 12	
Paul WADE	
'Canberra' 11	

1996-97

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sydney United Pumas	26	17	5	4	67	33	56
Brisbane Strikers	26	15	2	9	55	40	47
South Melbourne Lakers	26	14	4	8	39	25	46
Adelaide City Zebras	26	11	10	5	32	22	43
Marconi Fairfield Stallions	26	12	4	10	41	37	40
Melbourne Knights	26	11	6	9	36	32	39
Perth Glory	26	11	5	10	48	41	38
West Adelaide Sharks	26	10	3	13	39	51	33
UTS Olympic	26	8	8	10	41	46	32
Wollongong Wolves	26	8	8	10	42	48	32
Newcastle Breakers	26	7	9	10	40	46	30
Gippsland Falcons	26	8	6	12	33	41	30
Collingwood Warriors (relegated)	26	6	9	11	32	44	27
Canberra Cosmos	26	2	5	19	30	69	11

Leading Goalscorers	
David ZDRILIC	
'Sydney United'	21
Ante MILICIC	
'Sydney United'	18
Slobodan DESPOTOVSKI	
'Perth Glory'	14
Adrian CERVINSKI	
'Melbourne Knights'	12
Vas KALOGERAKOS	
'Perth Glory'	12
Norman TOME	
'Sydney Olympic'	12
Rod BROWN	
'Brisbane'	11
Frank FARINA	
'Brisbane'	11
Hamilton THORP	
'Adelaide Sharks'	11

Top Six Series

1st Elim Final - 1st leg, April 27		2nd leg, May 4	
Melbourne Knights 1	Adrian Cervinski 82	South Melbourne 3	Michael Curcija 1, 25
South Melbourne 4	Michael Curcija 48		Steve Panopoulos 33
	Vaughan Coveny 53	Melbourne Knights 0	
	Steve Panopoulos 60 (pen)	(South Melb won 7-1 on aggregate)	
	Paul Trimboli 88		

2nd Elim. Final - 1st leg, April 26		2nd leg, May 4	
Marconi Fairfield 3	Craig Foster 17	Adelaide City 4	Dino Menillo 35
	Sean Babic 66		Andy Harper 38og
	Andy Harper 70		Michael Brooks 48
			Michael Musitano 95*
Adelaide City 0		Marconi Fairfield 0	
		(*after extra time, Adelaide City won 4-3 on aggregate)	

Major Semi Final - 1st leg, May 3		2nd leg, May 11	
Brisbane Strikers 1	Sean Cranney 63	Sydney United 2	Jason Culina 24
Sydney United 0			Kresimir Marusic 35
		Brisbane Strikers 1	Wayne Kripe 77

Minor Semi Final, May 11		Preliminary Final, May 18	
South Melbourne 1	Con Blatsis 91	Sydney United 1	Ante Milicic 66
Adelaide City 0		South Melbourne 0	

Grand Final, May 25 (at Suncorp Stadium)

Brisbane Strikers 2	Frank Farina 47, Rod Brown 68
Sydney United 0	
Attendance: 40,446	Referee: Simon Micallef Joe Marston Medal: Alan Hunter (Brisbane)
Brisbane: Clint Bolton, Craig Williams, Danny Wright, Glenn Gwynne (Matt Bell), Alan Hunter, Sean Cranney, Chay Hews (Jerome Harris), Kasey Wehrman, Troy Cranney, Frank Farina (Reece Tollenaere), Rod Brown. Coach: Frank Farina	
Sydney: Zeljko Kalac, Richard Plesa, Mark Babic, Velimir Kupresak, Robert Trajkovski (Jason Culina), Paul Bilokapic, Ante Moric, Aytec Genc, Kresimir Marusic, David Zdrilic, Ante Milicic. Coach: Branko Culina	

1997-98

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Melbourne	26	13	9	4	56	41	48
Carlton	26	12	9	5	44	24	45
Adelaide City	26	13	4	9	45	30	43
Sydney United	26	11	10	5	37	26	43
Marconi Fairfield	26	12	7	7	33	25	43
Wollongong	26	13	3	10	51	33	42
Melbourne Knights	26	11	6	9	37	35	39
Perth Glory	26	10	6	10	35	40	36
UTS Olympic	26	10	5	11	37	43	35
Adelaide Sharks	26	10	4	12	32	38	34
Gippsland Falcons	26	8	7	11	28	36	31
Brisbane Strikers	26	6	5	15	23	40	23
Newcastle Breakers	26	4	9	13	30	50	21
Canberra Cosmos	26	3	8	15	29	56	17

Leading Goalscorers	
Damian MORI	
'Adelaide City'	19
Pablo CARDOZO	
'Adelaide Sharks'	13
Scott CHIPPERFIELD	
'Wollongong Wolves'	13
Norman TOME	
'Sydney Olympic'	13
Andrew VLAHOS	
'Carlton'	13
John MARKOVSKI	
'Carlton'	11
Tom PONDELJAK	
'Melbourne Knights'	11
John ANASTASIADIS	
'South Melbourne'	10
Ivan KELIC	
'Melbourne Knights'	10

The 97/98 Grand Final was the first to be played at night.

Top Six Series

1st Elim Final - 1st leg - (at Brandon Park)		1st Elim Final - 2nd leg - (at Hindmarsh)	
Wollongong 3	Tony Perinich 56	Adelaide City 2	Michael Brooks 17
	Kosta Salapaspasidis 80, 84		Nick Sabljak 80
Adelaide City 0		Wollongong 2	Alvin Ceccoli 56
			Kosta Salapaspasidis 75

2nd Elim Final - 1st leg - (at Marconi)		2nd Elim Final - 2nd leg - (at Parramatta)	
Marconi 1	Francis Awaritefe 26	Sydney Utd 0	
		Marconi 1	Francis Awaritefe 71
Sydney Utd 0			

Major Semi Final - 1st leg - (at Optus Oval)		Major Semi Final - 2nd leg - (at B.J.S.)	
Carlton 1	John Markovski 89	South Melbourne 1	Goran Lozanovski 13
South Melbourne 2	Paul Trimboli 24, John Anastasiadis 34	Carlton 0	

Minor Semi Final - (at Parramatta)		Preliminary Final - (at Olympic Park)	
Marconi 2	Francis Awaritefe 62	Carlton 1	Marco Bresciano 92
	Brad Maloney 67	Marconi 0	
Wollongong 1	Alvin Ceccoli 72		

Grand Final - Saturday May 16 (at Olympic Park)

South Melbourne 2	John Anastasiadis 8, Con Boutsianis 88
Carlton 1	Marcus Stergiopoulos 78
Attendance: 15,706	Referee: Eugene Brazzale Joe Marston Medal: Fausto De Amicis
South Melbourne: Michael Petkovic, Steve Iosifidis, Fausto De Amicis, Con Blatsis David Clarkson, Paul Trimboli, Bill Damianos, Goran Lozanovski (Vaughan Coveny) Tansel Baser, John Anastasiadis (Con Boutsianis) Coach: Angelo Postecoglou	
Carlton: Dean Anastasiadis, Robert Trajkovski, Lubo Lapsansky, Kresimir Marusic Simon Colosimo, Sean Douglas, Andrew Vlahos (Adrian Cervinski), John Markovski David Cervinski (Marcus Stergiopoulos), Mark Atkinson, Marco Bresciano	
Coach: Eddie Krncevic	

1998 -99

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sydney United	28	18	4	6	53	33	58
South Melbourne	28	17	6	5	50	26	57
Perth Glory	28	16	5	7	62	37	53
Marconi Fairfield	28	15	3	10	53	47	48
*Northern Spirit	28	14	4	10	36	35	46
Adelaide City	28	13	6	9	39	26	45
Sydney Olympic	28	12	7	9	46	36	43
Newcastle Breakers	28	11	7	10	29	33	40
Brisbane Strikers	28	11	6	11	41	47	39
Wollongong Wolves	28	8	8	12	45	52	32
Carlton SC	28	9	4	15	47	47	31
Melbourne Knights	28	8	5	15	32	43	29
Adelaide Sharks	28	7	6	15	36	46	27
Gippsland Falcons	28	5	10	13	17	44	25
Canberra Cosmos	28	4	3	21	21	55	15

Leading Goalscorers	
Pablo CARDOZO	
'Sydney Olympic'	18
Brad MALONEY	
'Marconi'	16
Mile STERJOVSKI	
'Sydney United'	16
Damian MORI	
'Adelaide City'	14
Vaughan COVENY	
'South Melbourne'	13
Alex MOREIRA	
'Carlton'	12
Michael CURCIJA	
'South Melbourne'	12
Con BOUTSIANIS	
'Perth Glory'	11
John MARKOVSKI	
'Perth Glory'	11
Francis AWARITEFE	
'Marconi'	10

Top Six Series

Elim Final - 1st leg - May 2

Adelaide City 0

Perth Glory 0

Elim Final - 1st leg - April 30

Northern Spirit 0

Marconi Fairfield 0

Elim Final - 2nd leg - May 8

Perth Glory 2

Jamie Hamwell 73

Bobby Despotovski 91

Damian Mori 70

Elim Final - 2nd leg - May 9

Marconi Fairfield 2

Mike Smith 45

Sean Babic 48

Graham Arnold 82

Major Semi Final - 1st leg - May 9

South Melbourne 2

Michael Curcija 45

Vaughan Coveny 54

Sydney United 1

Richard Plesa 72

Major Semi Final - 2nd leg - May 16

Sydney United 0

South Melbourne 0

Minor Semi Final - May 15

Perth Glory 1

og 21 (Buddy Farah)

Marconi Fairfield 0

Preliminary Final - May 23

Sydney United 2

Mile Sterjovski 13

Steve Berry 70

Perth Glory 1

Con Boutsianis 83

Grand Final - May 30 (Olympic Park)

South Melbourne 3

Paul Trimboli 53, John Anastasiadis 62, 87

Sydney United 2

Mile Sterjovski 13, Danny Townsend 90

Attendance: 15,194 Referee: Simon Micallef Joe Marston Medal: Goran Lozanovski

Sth Melbourne: Michael Petkovic, Steve Iosifidis, Fausto De Amicis, Nick Orlic, Con Blatsis,

David Clarkson, Steve Panopoulos, Goran Lozanovski (Jim Tsakinis), Paul Trimboli

(George Goutzioulis), Vaughan Coveny, Michael Curcija (John Anastasiadis).

Coach: Angie Postecoglou

Sydney United: Mike Gibson, David Barrett, Velimir Kupresak, Richard Plesa, Joe Vrkic,

Michael Santalab (Danny Townsend), Peter Bennett, Steve Berry, Jacob Burns,

Mile Sterjovski, Nathan Day (Joel Griffiths). Coach: David Mitchell

Notes

NSL Cup Finals - 1977 - 1997

1977 - Oct 14 (in Brisbane)

Brisbane City 1 Peter Tokesi 60
Marconi 1 Peter Shame 40
Brisbane City won 5-3 on penalties
Attendance: 8,658

1978 - Oct 10 (in Brisbane)

Brisbane City 2 Barry Kelso 29,
Frank Pimblett 77
Adelaide City 1 Zoran Matic 31
Attendance: 5,276

1979 - Sept 30 (in Adelaide)

Adelaide City 3 John Nyskohus 54,76
Bugsy Nyskohus 65
St George 2 Steve O'Connor 21
John O'Shea 48
Attendance: 8,654

1980 - Oct 4 (in Melbourne)

Heidelberg 0
Marconi 0
Attendance: 6,388

Replay - Oct 15 (in Sydney)

Marconi 3 Gary Byrne 17 (pen),
Eddie Krnoevic 64
Peter Shame 87

Heidelberg 0
Attendance: 5,179

1981 (at Bruce Stadium)

Brisbane Lions 3 Calvin Daunt,
Bob Ferris
Billy Williamson
West Adelaide Hellas 1 Shraga Topaz

1982 (at Olympic Park)

APIA-Leichhardt 2 Jim McBreen,
Terry Butler
Jim Campbell
Heidelberg 1
Attendance: Approx 5,000
Ref: Don Campbell

1983 - 1st leg (at St George Stadium)

Sydney Olympic 1 Terry Patalis
Heidelberg 0
Attendance: 6420

2nd leg (at Olympic Park)

Heidelberg 0
Sydney Olympic 1 Terry Patalis
Attendance: 6000

1984 (at Olympic Park)

Melbourne Croatia 0
Newcastle Rosebud 1 Derek Todd 29
Attendance: 4000

1985 (at St George Stadium, Sydney)

Sydney Olympic 2 Marshall Soper 81
Peter Raskopoulos 83
Preston-Makedonia 1 Gary Cole 12
Att: 6,147
Ref: Don Campbell

1986 (at Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide)

Sydney City Hakoah 3 John Kosmina 61
Frank Farina 114, 118
Adelaide Hellas 2 Hristodoulou 49, 112
Att: 3,200 Ref: Stewart Mellings

1987 - 1st leg Oct 14, (St George Stad.)

Sydney Croatia 1 Robbie Slater 85
South Melbourne 0
Attendance: 3,845

2nd leg (Oct 18, Olympic Park)

South Melbourne 0
Sydney Croatia 1 Graham Arnold
Attendance: 4,000
Sydney Croatia won 2-0 on aggregate

1988 - August (at Marconi Stadium)

APIA Leichhardt 0
Brunswick Juventus 0
APIA won 5-3 on penalties
Attendance: 2200

1989 (at Hindmarsh)

Adelaide City 2
Sydney Olympic 0
Attendance: 8000

1989/90

South Melbourne 4
Sydney Olympic 1
Attendance: 8790

90/91 (at Marconi Stadium)

Parramatta Eagles 1 Greg Brown
Preston 0

1991/92 - April 5

Adelaide City 2 Joe Mullen 7
Tony Vidmar 81
Mark Jones 74
Marconi 1
Man of the Match: Joe Mullen (Ad City)
Attendance: 3,102
Referee: Gordon Dunster

1992/93 - April 18 (at Marconi)

Parramatta Eagles 1 Michael Reda 79
Heidelberg Utd 2 Alan Scott 2
George Slifkas 86

Attendance: 2,596
Referee: Rob Davies

1993/94 - Oct 17 (at Marconi Stadium)

Sydney United 0
Parramatta Eagles 2 Velimir Kupresak o.g. 42,
Brendan Renaud 85
Attendance: 4,156
Referee: Eugene Brazzale

1994/95 (at Olympic Park)

Melbourne Knights 6 Joe Spiteri 32,70
Steve Horvat 52,
Joe Biskic 81,
Mark Viduka 86,87

Heidelberg Utd 0

Attendance: 5,041
Referee: Eugene Brazzale

1995/96 (at Bob Jane Stadium)

South Melbourne 3 Vaughan Coveny 22, 75,
Steve Panopoulos 36 (pen)
Newcastle Breakers 1 Steve Hickman 50
Attendance: 3,457
Referee: Simon Micallef

1996/97 - October 6, 1996

Collingwood Warriors 1 Con Boutsianis 47
Marconi 0
Attendance: 2,327
Referee: Eugene Brazzale

The Future?

Administrators, clubs and fans must all share the blame over the demise of the national cup competition. The administrators never gave it any sense of purpose, the clubs treated it as little more than friendly / warm-up / trial matches, and the fans reacted accordingly.

The format, like that of the league, has been constantly changed. Clubs from outside the NSL have competed, while there have also been occasions when NSL clubs haven't competed in the cup.

Yet almost everybody involved in soccer wants to see an 'English FA Cup style' knockout competition. If nothing else, it would educate the public that there are some very good soccer teams operating outside the national league. The opportunities of the 'smaller' clubs to earn some of the spotlight have been further diminished in recent years with the axing of the (NSW) Waratah Cup and the (Victorian) Dockerty Cup.

It is only a matter of time before a major national cup competition is re-introduced. Everybody wants a national cup, it just seems a matter of giving it the respect it warrants by finding a permanent date and venue for the final. And a generous sponsor, of course...

NSL Player of the Year

Year	Winner
1977	Jimmy Rooney (Marconi)
1978	Ken Boden (Newcastle)
1979	Ivo Prskalo (Marconi)
1980	Jim Hermiston (Brisbane Lions)
1981	Bobby Russell (Adelaide City)
1982	Peter Katholos (Sydney Olympic)
1983	Joe Watson (Sydney City)
1984	Sergio Melia (Adelaide City)
1985	Graham Honeyman (West Ad) * Jim Patikas (Sydney Croatia)
1986	Bobby Russell (Sth Melbourne) * Graham Arnold (Syd Croatia)
1987	Andrew Zinni (Brunswick) * Frank Farina (Marconi)
1988	Paul Wade (South Melbourne) * Frank Farina (Marconi)
1989	Zlatko Nastevski (Marconi)
89/90	Zeljko Adzic (Melbourne Knights)
90/91	Milan Ivanovic (Adelaide City)
91/92	Josip Biskic (Melbourne Knights)
92/93	Paul Trimboli (South Melbourne)

*Explanatory note required (leave 2 lines)

1993/94 Player of the Year

Mark Viduka (Melb Knights) 176
Andrew Marth (Melb Knights) 120
Josip Biskic (Melb Knights) 87

1994/95 Player of the Year

Mark Viduka (Melbourne Knights) 151
Tony Popovic (Sydney United) 89
Milan Ivanovic (Adelaide City) 72

1995/96 Player of the Year

Damian Mori (Adelaide City) 350
Frank Farina (Brisbane) 164
Craig Foster (Adelaide City) 91

1996/97 Player of the Year

Kresimir Marusic (Sydney United) 214
Paul Trimboli (South Melbourne) 197
Ante Milicic (Sydney United) 192

1997/98 Player of the Year

Paul Trimboli (South Melbourne)
Damian Mori (Adelaide City)
Brett Emerton (UTS Olympic)

1998/99 Player of the Year

Under 21 Player of the Year

Year	Winner
1977	John Kosmina (West Adelaide)
1978	Ian Souness (Sydney Hakoah)
1979	Eddie Krncevic (Marconi)
1980	John Spanos (Sydney Hakoah)
1981	David Mitchell (Adelaide City)
1982	David Lowe (Newcastle)
1983	Oscar Crino (South Melbourne)
1984	Tony Franken (Canberra City)
1985	Alan Hunter (Brisbane Lions)
1986	Ernie Tapai (Footscray JUST)
1987	John Markovski (Sunshine GC)
1988	Paul Trimboli (South Melbourne)
1989	Paul Trimboli (South Melbourne)
89/90	Paul Okon (Marconi)
90/91	Paul Okon (Marconi)
91/92	Kevin Muscat (Heidelberg)
92/93	Steve Corica (Marconi)

1993/94 U/21 Player of the Year

Mark Viduka (Melb Knights) 394
Goran Lozanovski (Adelaide City)
Adrian Cervinski (Melb Knights)

1994/95 U/21 Player of the Year

Mark Viduka (Melb Knights) 248
Robert Enes (Melbourne Zebras) 79
Clint Bolton (Brisbane) 69

1995/96 U/21 Player of the Year

Jim Tsokenis (West Adelaide) 306
Robert Enes (Sydney United) 142
Tom Pondeljak (Melbourne Knights) 90

1996/97 U/21 Player of the Year

Kasey Wehrman (Brisbane) 234
Brett Emerton (UTS Olympic) 143
Tom Pondeljak (Melbourne Knights) 101

1997/98 U/21 Player of the Year

Brett Emerton (UTS Olympic)
Simon Colosimo (Carlton)
Bill Damianos (South Melbourne)

1998/99 U/21 Player of the Year

Any more questions?

OzSoccer

<http://bix.thehub.com.au/ozsoccer/>

Goalkeeper of the Year

1991/92	Robert Zabica (Adelaide City)
1992/93	Mark Schwarzer (Marconi)
1993/94	Zeljko Kalac (Sydney Utd) 232 Steve Mautone (Morwell) 168 Michael Gibson (Sydney Olympic) 147
1994/95	Zeljko Kalac (Sydney United) Clint Bolton (Brisbane)
1995/96	Frank Juric (Melbourne Knights) 244 Brett Hughes (Wollongong) 237 Jason Petkovic (Adelaide City) 184
1996/97	Jason Petkovic (Adelaide City) 330 Michael Petkovic (Sth Melbourne) 275 Zeljko Kalac (Sydney United) 205
1997/98	Jason Petkovic (Adelaide City) Michael Petkovic (South Melbourne) Dean Anastasiadis (Carlton)

Referee of the Year

1977	No Award
1978	Peter Rampley
1979	Tony Boskovic
1980	Peter Rampley
1981	Tim Davies
1982	Tony Boskovic
1983	Stuart Mellings
1984	Doug Rennie
1985	Donald Campbell
1986	Donald Campbell
1987	Donald Campbell
1988	Chris Bambridge
1989	Jim Reeves
1989/90	John Santa Isabel
1990/91	Chris Bambridge
1991/92	John Connell
1992/93	Eugene Brazzale
1993/94	Richard Lorenc
1994/95	Eddie Lennie
1995/96	Eddie Lennie
1996/97	Simon Micallef
1997/98	Eugene Brazzale
1998/99	

Coach of the Year

Year	Winner
1977	Rale Rasic (Marconi)
1978	Gerry Chaldi (Sydney Hakoah)
1979	Les Scheinflug (Marconi)
1980	John Margaritis (South Melbourne)
1981	Eddie Thomson (Sydney Hakoah)
1982	Frank Arok (St George)
1983	Frank Arok (St George)
1984	Eddie Thomson (Sydney City)
1985	Eddie Thomson (Sydney City)
1986	Dragoslav Sekularac (Footscray JUST)
1987	Rale Rasic (Apia Leichhardt)
1988	Brian Garvey (South Melbourne)
1989	Berti Mariani (Marconi)
89/90	Berti Mariani (Marconi)
90/91	Zoran Matic (Adelaide City)
91/92	David Ratcliffe (Wollongong)
92/93	Jim Pyrgolios (South Melbourne)
1993/94	Mirko Bazic (Melb Knights) 28 Manfred Schaefer (Sydney Utd) 19 Bobby McLaughlin (Morwell) 14
1994/95	Zoran Matic (Adelaide City) 16 Mirko Bazic (Melbourne Knights) 15 Branko Culina (Sydney United) 11
1995/96	John Perin (Adelaide City) 19 Manfred Schaefer (Marconi) 17 David Ratcliffe (UTS Olympic) 12
1996/97	Branko Culina (Sydney United) 26 Frank Farina (Brisbane) 14 Gary Marocchi (Perth Glory) 13
1997/98	Angie Postecoglou (Sth Melbourne) Nick Theodorakopoulos (Wollongong) David Mitchell (Sydney United)
1998/99	

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Thanks for making it this far. We hope you have enjoyed the journey, and happily invite contributions for what will almost certainly be a bigger, brighter effort in 2000.

In the meantime, let's see YOU at an NSL ground next season!